

**Thomas Jefferson to Albert Gallatin, January 4, 1807,  
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Leicester Ford.**

**TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY J. MSS. (ALBERT GALLATIN.)**

January 4, 1807.

There is a vessel fitting out at New York, formerly called the *Emperor*, now the *Fames*, or the *Brutus* (accounts differ), to carry 22 guns and 150 men, and to be commanded by Blakely, who went out Lieutenant of the *Leander*. She is confidently believed to be destined for Burr at New Orleans. The collector should be put on his guard; he can get much information from the Mayor of New York on the subject. If Blakely went out really with Miranda as Lieutenant, he should be immediately arrested and put on his trial. Will you be so good as to take the necessary measures on this subject?<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> On January 5, 1807, Jefferson further wrote to Gallatin:

"I return you the letter of Mr. Gelston respecting the *Brutus*. From what I learn, she cannot be destined for the Mississippi, because she draws too much water to enter it. However, considering the difficulty Congress finds in enlarging the limits of our preventive powers, I think we should be cautious how we step across those limits ourselves. She is probably bound to St. Domingo. Could not Congress while continuing that law, amend it so as to prevent the abuse actually practised? Affectionate salutations."